

## REMEMBERING LIVES LOST AT MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS 1 YEAR AGO

(Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Mr. Speaker, today is a very difficult day for south Florida and for my community. One year ago, we lost 17 innocent lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in Parkland.

The pain of the family and friends of those we lost does not go away. I know. I lost my father to gun violence.

Shortly after the tragedy at Parkland, I met with the parents of the students who lost their lives. All you want to do is find a way to take away their pain, but you can't. You can listen to them, share their story, hold their hand, but you can't take away their pain.

When I spoke with parents like Regina Talabert, Romania Duque, Manny, Patricia, and other concerned Floridians, I made a promise that I would not stop until we changed our country's gun laws.

I want to be able to continue to look at those parents, those students, and all of those who have lost a loved one to gun violence and tell them that I will do everything that I can to prevent another tragedy from happening.

We cannot wait for another mass shooting, so I want to say that I am so proud of my colleagues that we passed H.R. 8 yesterday on the floor. We can work together to prevent another Parkland.

## PROTECTING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

(Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak for those who can't speak for themselves: the souls of our Nation's unborn and newborn children.

I have long championed pro-life legislation and initiatives, but recent events have shaken me and millions across our country, compelling me to address this body.

The act of abortion is tragic and heartbreaking; however, the termination of human life for abortion survivors is something worse—criminal, subhuman. But proposals exist in our State governments that would allow just that.

Allowing an infant to die or intentionally killing an abortion survivor is a disgrace and must not be allowed to happen in any circumstance.

I echo the calls from Republican leadership to immediately pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to ensure the sanctity of life remains a fundamental principle in this country.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SHANNON KENT

(Mr. DELGADO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent, a true hero from Pine Plains, New York, who tragically lost her life in service to this country on January 16, 2019, in Syria.

Chief Kent was 35 years old and is survived by her husband, a retired member of the Army, and her two young sons.

After graduating with honors from Stissing Mountain High School on December 11, 2003, Chief Kent enlisted in the United States Navy, where she quickly rose through the ranks and served as a member of the Navy's Cryptologic Warfare Unit.

Chief Kent was fluent in five different languages and six dialects of Arabic and was one of the first women to complete the rigorous course required for troops to accompany Navy SEALs on raids.

Chief Kent could run a marathon in 3 hours 30 minutes, do a dozen full-arm-hang pull-ups, and then march for miles with a 50-pound rucksack—amazing.

A cancer survivor, Chief Kent had assignments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and, finally, Syria. Just 1 month into her deployment, Chief Kent was killed by a suicide bomber.

A recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, Chief Kent gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country and will be remembered for her courage and determination.

## RECOGNIZING THE IRREPLACEABLE WORK OF OUR COURT REPORTERS DURING NATIONAL COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important and irreplaceable work done by our court reporters during National Court Reporting and Captioning Week, which is February 9 through 16.

As guardians of the record, court reporters have had and do have a large impact on capturing history for posterity.

During our nearly 250 years of American history, court reporters have been a cornerstone of our American justice system. From George Washington's farewell address to Lincoln's "House Divided" speech, these noble servants have transcribed some of the most important pieces of American history.

Today, with the help of new technology like that utilized by CART captioners, reporters have been able to expand beyond the courtroom to provide accessibility for millions of Amer-

icans who are deaf and hard of hearing by providing captioning in real time for live sporting and theater events, church services, movie theaters, and many other venues.

As I speak to you now, a stenographer, Julia, is seated next to me, quietly but promptly recording my every word.

So, on behalf of myself and all Members of Congress, thank you for all the hard work you do in support of this House.

## WE MUST ACT ON GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. NEGUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8.

I serve on the House Judiciary Committee. Last night, after 10 hours of debate, our committee passed this bill to be brought to the floor, and it is vital that we pass it.

In Colorado and across our country, we have experienced undue devastation by countless tragedies of gun violence—Columbine, Aurora.

Mothers, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives, and young children have been lost at the hands of gun violence.

One year ago today, 17 lives were taken in 6 minutes and 20 seconds in Parkland, Florida.

There is no question we need to address the epidemic of gun violence in our country. We cannot sit idly by. Universal background checks are overwhelmingly supported by the American people, and 20 States, including my home State of Colorado, have either wholly or partially closed the background check loophole.

Americans understand what it takes to keep our communities safe from gun violence, and it is time for Congress to act as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say, simply: Enough is enough. We must act on gun violence. We must pass H.R. 8 here on the floor.

## PROTECT THE RIGHT TO LIFE

(Mr. BANKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, like so many others, I have been deeply disturbed by the news out of the New York and Virginia State Legislatures, where infanticide is being legalized.

Today I rise in strong support of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, a child born alive after a failed abortion is a living being just like any other baby born prematurely. Ending any life at 24 weeks or as a newborn is murder.

The law just adopted in New York legalizes abortion up to 40 weeks, essentially up to the moment of birth, and this is atrocious.

We are facing a moral crisis, and I fear for my children's future with today's officials supporting and signing bills into law like that of New York's.